



HR0570

LRB099 12673 GRL 36388 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Thomas J. Schafer
4 on the occasion of his retirement after 27 years of
5 distinguished service with the Illinois Department of Public
6 Health, the last 7 years of which he served as the Deputy
7 Director in the Office Health Promotion; and

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Schafer functioned admirably as a jack of
9 all trades for 5 directors of the Department of Public Health,
10 as demonstrated by his innate ability to handle various
11 assignments during his nearly 3 decades serving the public's
12 health; he served for 7 years as the Deputy of Director in the
13 Office of Health Promotion, 3 years as the Chief of the
14 Division of Social Marketing and Emergency Risk
15 Communications, and 17 years as the Department's Chief of
16 Communications; and

17 WHEREAS, Thomas Schafer was assigned on 2 separate
18 occasions to the Governor's Office, first as a Special
19 Assistant to the Governor at the request of Governor Jim Edgar,
20 where he researched and authored the 186-page book "Meeting the
21 Challenge: The Edgar Administration, 1991-1999", and second as
22 the Springfield Press Secretary under Governor Rod R.
23 Blagojevich; and

1 WHEREAS, Thomas Schafer developed the Department of Public
2 Health's first website; he handled emergency communications
3 for the 1998 multistate outbreak of Salmonella Serotype Agona
4 infections linked to Toasted Oats cereal, in which Illinois
5 reported the highest number cases in the country; he also
6 advised the Director's office during the 2009 H1N1 influenza
7 pandemic and developed the rules and implemented the Smoke Free
8 Illinois Act; and

9 WHEREAS, Thomas Schafer was a founding member of the
10 National Public Health Information Coalition and served as the
11 organization's Region V President; and

12 WHEREAS, Thomas Schafer worked as a reporter and editor at
13 the Rockford Register Star, a Springfield correspondent for
14 Gannet News Service, and the Florida Bureau Chief in
15 Tallahassee for Gannett News Service before transferring his
16 reporting and editing skills to provide expert communications
17 for the Department of Public Health; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 congratulate Thomas J. Schafer on the occasion of his
21 retirement after many years of distinguished service with the
22 Illinois Department of Public Health and wish him the best in

1 all his future endeavors; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Thomas J. Schafer as an expression of our esteem
4 and respect.